


Retaining, sealing or finishing strips

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Abstract

A sealing and trimming strip, such as for a vehicle door opening, comprises a channel-shaped gripping part (4) for mounting around a door opening to be sealed. The gripping part (4) supports a sealing lip (6) which seals against the closing door. The opposite wall of the gripping part (4) carries a plurality of separate clips (8) which are used to grip and support the edge of the interior trim of the vehicle. 

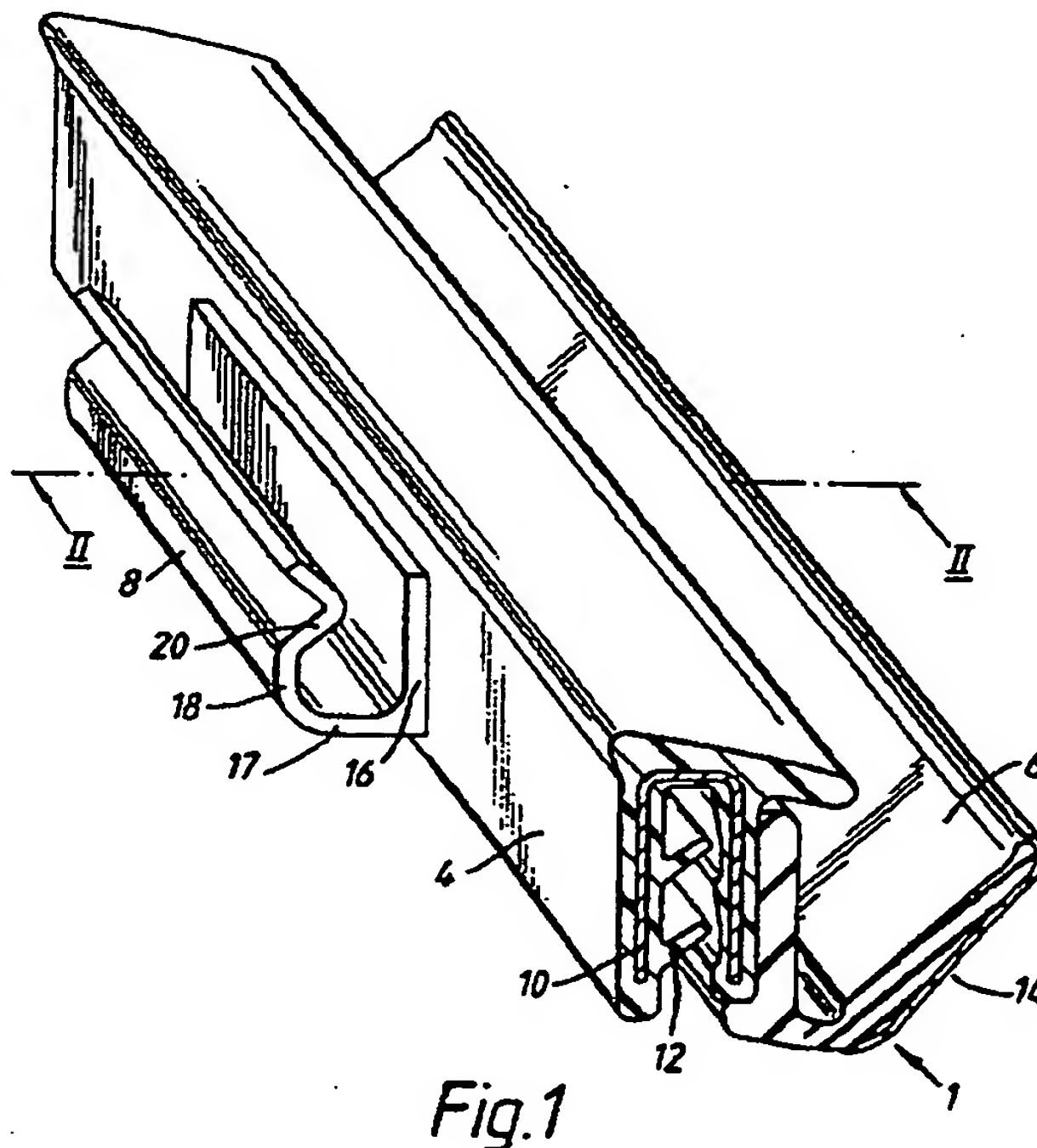
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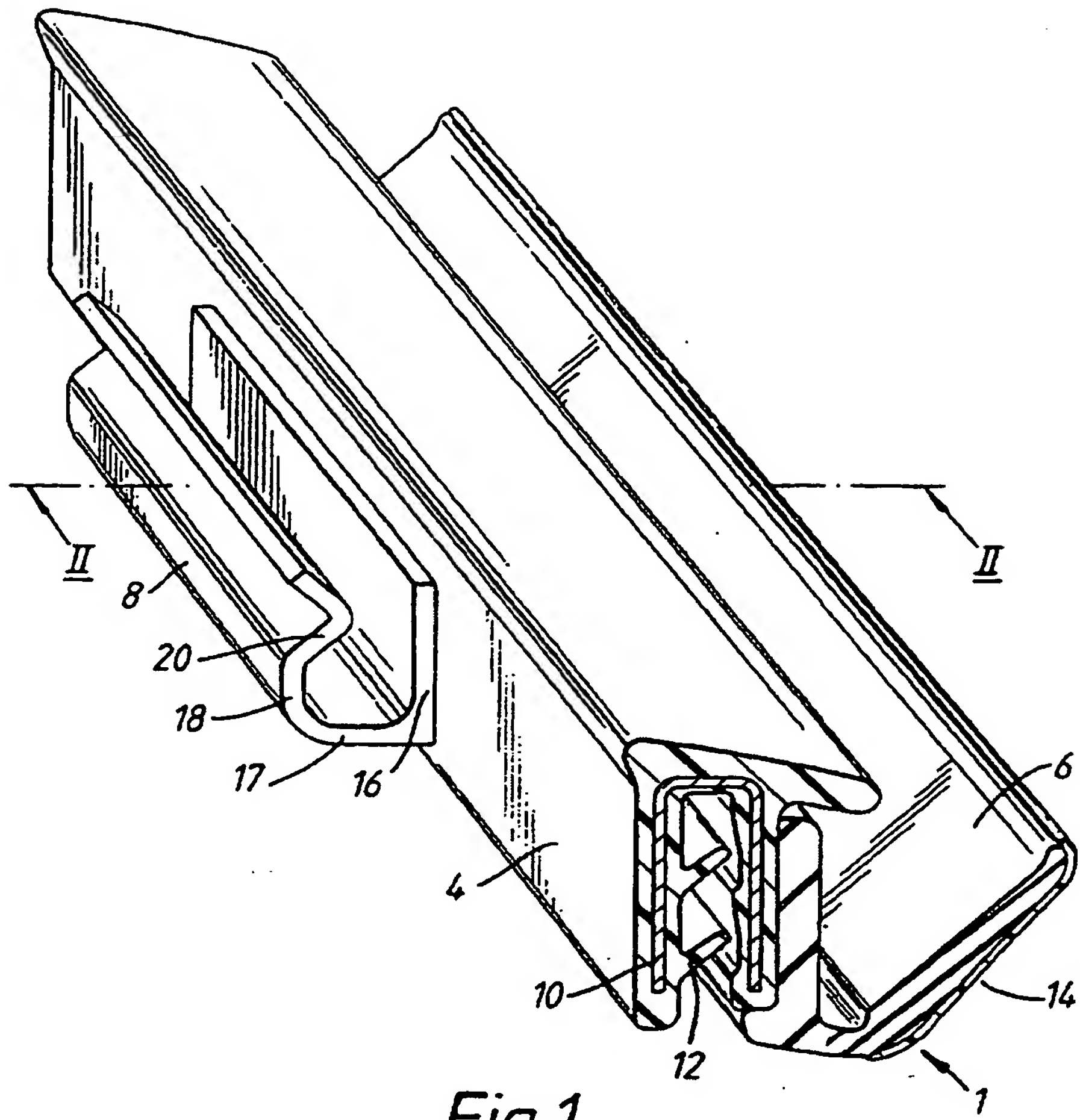
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At least one drawing originally filed was Informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

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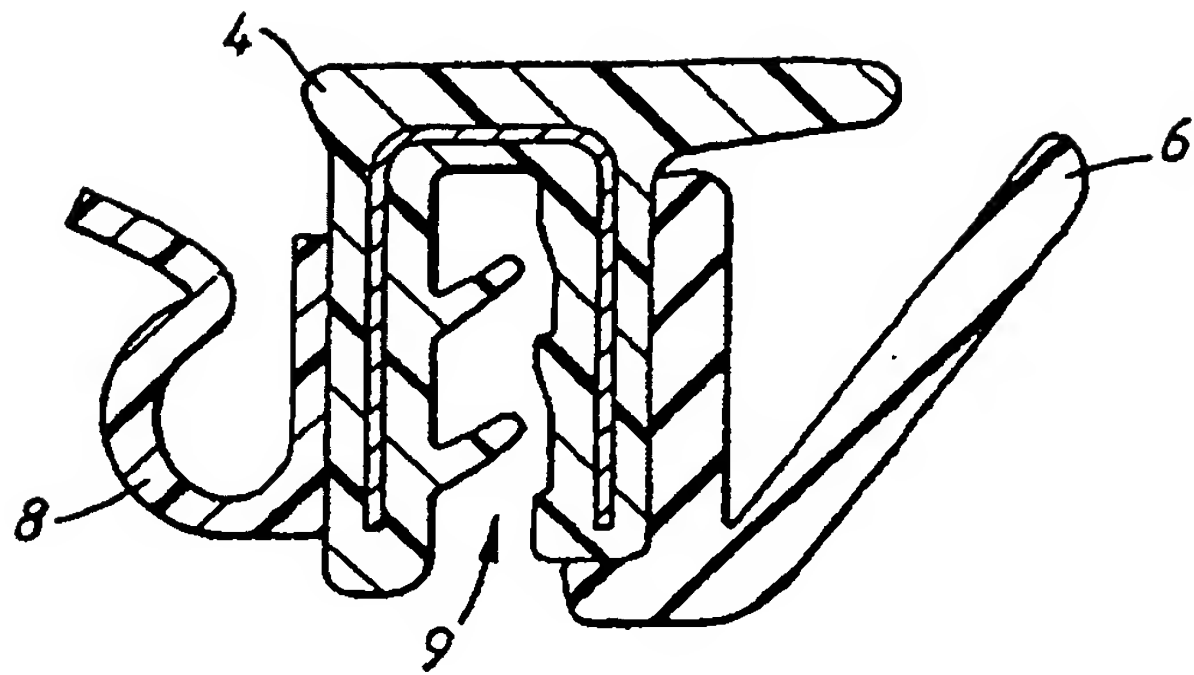


Fig. 2

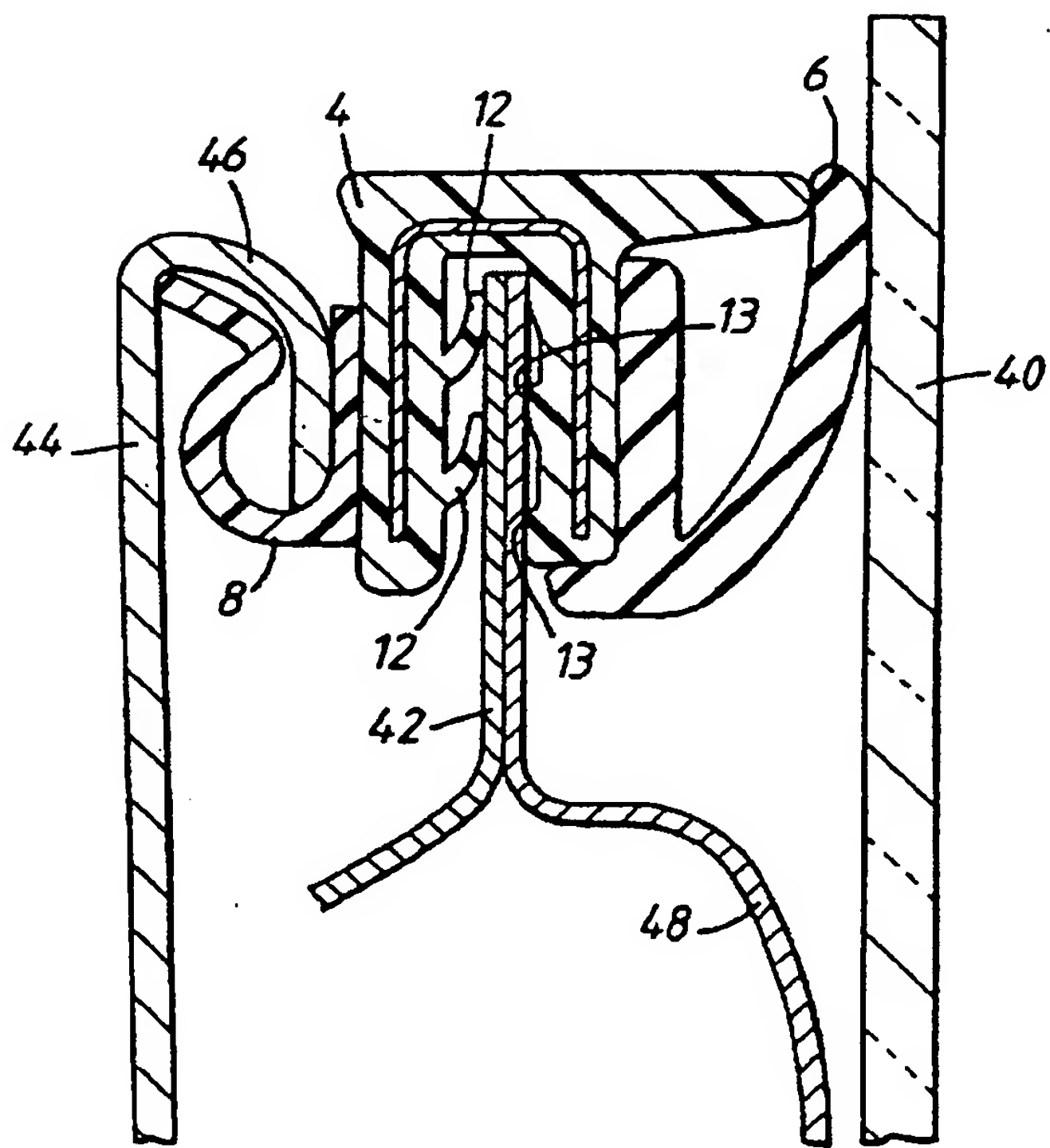


Fig. 3

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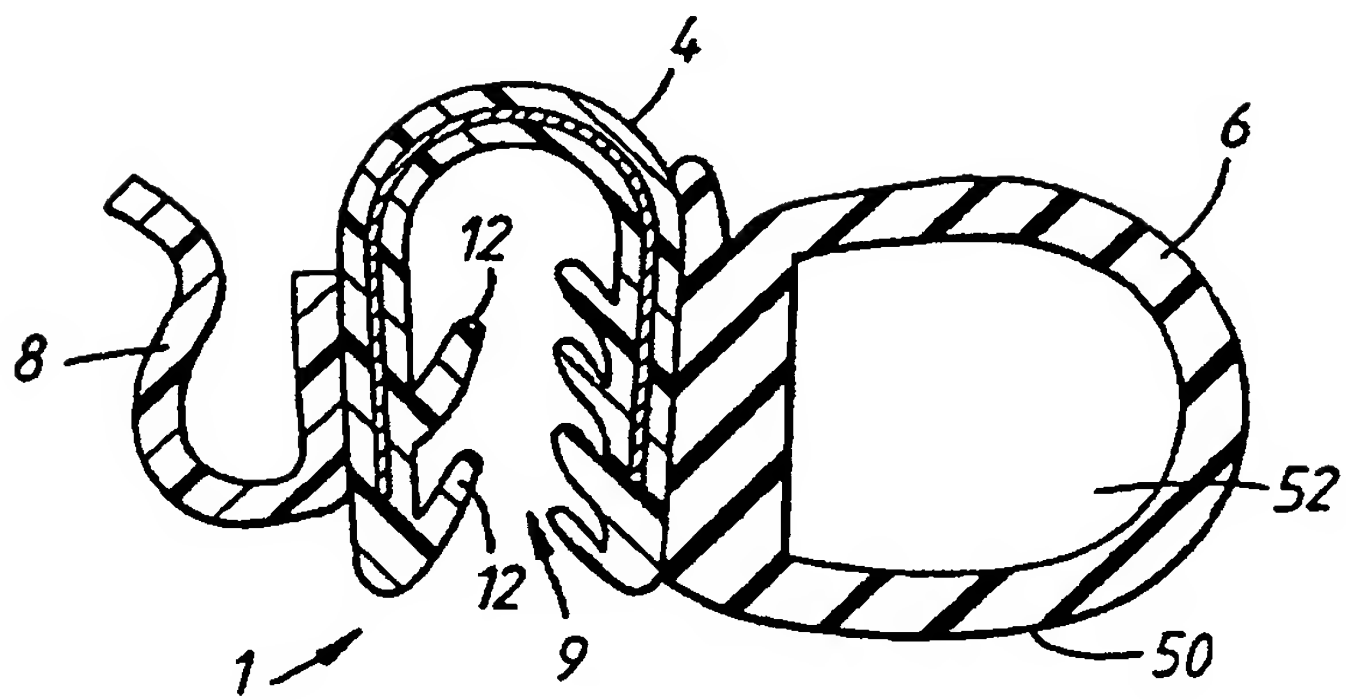


Fig. 4

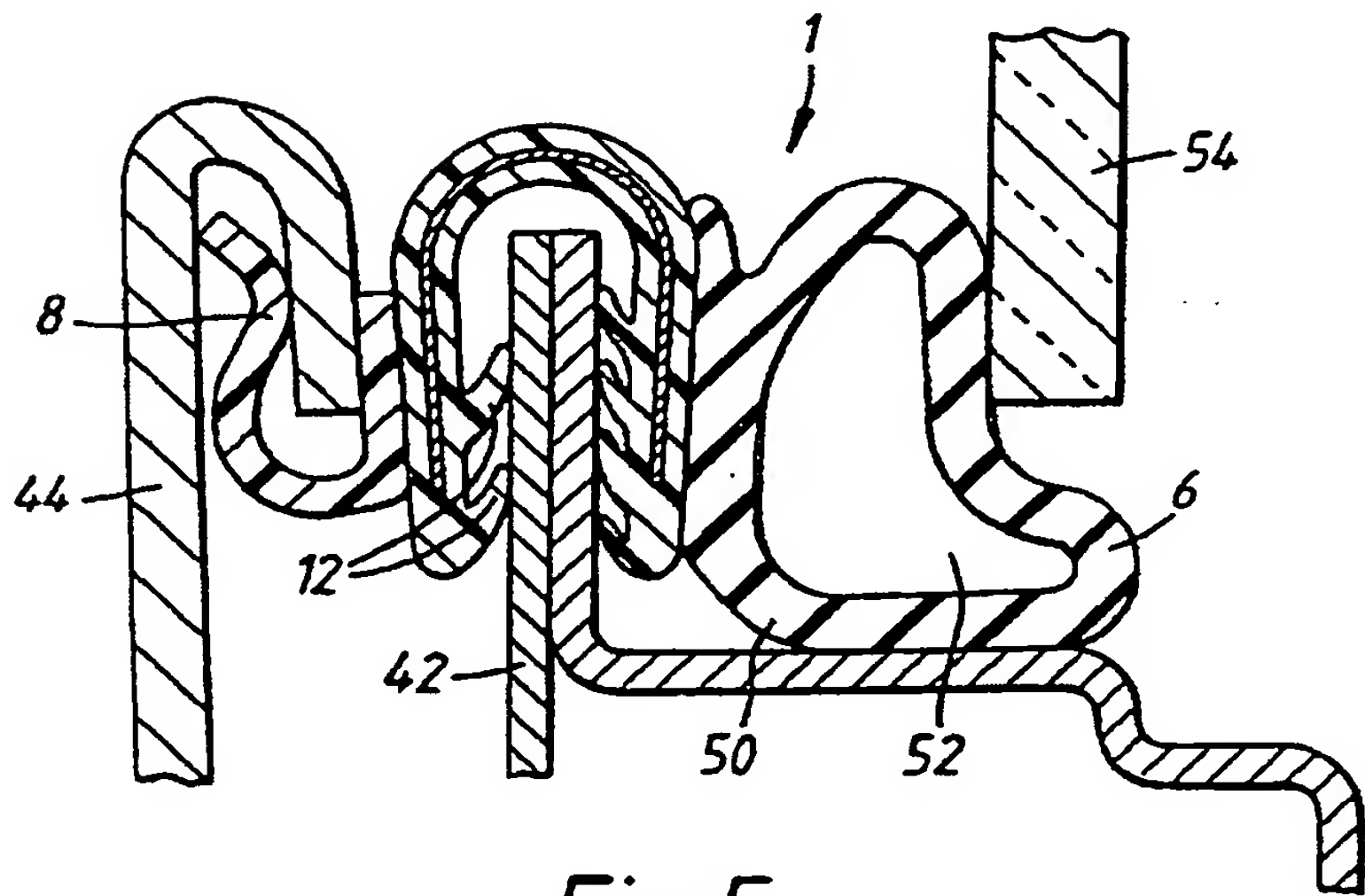


Fig. 5

RETAINING, SEALING OR FINISHING STRIPS

The invention relates to retaining, sealing or finishing strips. More specifically, though not exclusively, it relates to strips for retaining at least part of a vehicle trim, for example, with respect to the frame of an opening and which in addition perform a sealing or finishing function.

According to the invention, there is provided a retaining, sealing or finishing strip, comprising a gripping portion for grippingly engaging at least part of the periphery of the frame of an opening, one outside face of the gripping portion being provided with at least one clip for positioning and mounting an edge of a sheet of material to be secured with reference to the opening.

According to the invention, there is also provided a retaining, sealing or finishing strip for the frame of a window opening in the door of a motor vehicle, comprising a longitudinally extending channel-shaped gripping portion, the face of the external channel wall of the strip being provided with a flexible seal for sealing against a window glass in the frame, and an opposite face of the external channel wall of the strip being provided with a series of spaced-apart clips for engagingly mounting a trim panel on

the door.

Retaining, sealing or finishing strips according to the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of the retaining, sealing and finishing strips;

Figure 2 is a transverse cross-sectional view taken on the line II-II of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a view corresponding to Figure 2 but showing the strip mounted on a vehicle body panel with the window glass and the interior trim in position;

Figure 4 is a transverse cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of the invention with an alternative configuration for the sealing section;

Figure 5 is a view corresponding to Figure 4 but showing the strip mounted on a vehicle body panel with the door closed and the trim in position;

In a first embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 1,

the longitudinally extending retaining, sealing and finishing strip comprises a gripping portion 4, a sealing portion 6 and trim retaining clips 8 (only one shown in the Figure).

In this example, the gripping portion 4 is made of channel-shaped resilient material such as plastics or rubber material in which is embedded a longitudinally extending U-shaped reinforcing metal carrier 10. The gripping portion 4 is also provided with deformable gripping lips 12 which run along one inside wall of the channel 9. Serrations 13 are provided on the opposite inside wall. It will be appreciated that other designs of gripping portion are possible, for example the metal carrier may take any suitable form, such as U-shaped metal elements arranged side-by-side to define a channel and either interconnected or completely disconnected. The number of gripping lips 12 may also be varied. In this example, there are two relatively large gripping lips on one inside wall of the channel and two relatively smaller serrations 13 on the other inside wall, but there need not be equal numbers of lips 12 or serrations 13 on the two sides, and there may be more, less or no gripping lips 12 or serrations 13 on either channel inside wall.

The sealing portion 6 in this example comprises a

longitudinally extending deformable sealing lip 14. The sealing portion 6 may form a seal against a fixed window or other panel and may also be of a different design to that described.

The sealing portion 6 is preferably made of a soft resilient material such as of foamed or expanded consistency, such as rubber or plastics material. The sealing portion 6 may be produced separately and then attached to the gripping portion 4 adhesively. Alternatively it may be extruded simultaneously with the gripping portion 4. It will be appreciated that the two portions 4,6 need not necessarily be made from the same material and indeed need not be of the same hardness or consistency.

The trim retaining clip 8 is generally channel-shaped comprising a first side limb 16, a base 17 and a second side limb 18. The latter limb 18 is extended upwardly and is provided with an inwardly extending angular portion 20. The limb 16 is fixedly attached to the outer wall of the gripping portion 4, as by adhesive.

The trim retaining clip 8 is preferably made of a resilient material such as a plastics or rubber material capable of limited elastic deformation.

Although only one clip 8 is shown in Figure 1, in practice each sealing and retaining strip 1 is provided with a plurality of such clips 8 positioned at spaced-apart intervals along the length of the strip.

Each trim retaining clip 8 can be manufactured separately to the remainder of the sealing and retaining strip 1 and adhesively fixed to the gripping portion 4 and can be made from the same materials or materials different from those of the gripping portion 4 and the sealing portion 6.

As illustrated in Figure 3, the strip 1 is in use positioned along the waistline of the vehicle, that is running horizontally along the inside of the gap into which the window glass pane 40 descends into the hollow lower part of the door. The strip 1 is mounted on a metal flange 42 running along the bottom of a window opening in the vehicle body, the flange being produced where panels 43 and 48 of the door are welded together. As shown, the strip 1 is fitted in position by placing the gripping portion 4 on the metal flange 42 so that the gripping lips 12 deform and seal against and grip the walls of the flange 42, this process being aided by the serrations 13.

The sealing lip 14 deforms and bears against the window pane 40, providing a seal against air, water, dust and

noise.

The vehicle trim 44, made of semi-stiff material, has a curved-over upper edge 46 the thickness of which is slightly larger than the gap provided between the limb 16 and the angular portion 20 of the trim retaining cup 8. The edge 46 is thus forced into this gap, and the corresponding gap of each other similar clip (not shown) positioned along the length of the gripping portion 4, each clip 8 elastically deforming to allow the edge 46 to be lockingly fixed to the sealing, retaining and finishing strip 1 and hence held in position on the door.

A second embodiment of the invention is shown in Figure 4 in which parts corresponding to parts in other Figures are similarly referenced.

The strip of Figure 4 is generally similar to that of Figure 1 but the sealing portion 6 has been modified for use as a door seal. In this embodiment the gripping portion 4 is provided with four gripping lips 12 on one side wall of the channel and two relatively larger gripping lips 12 on the opposite inside wall of the channel 9. Again, the number of lips on each wall may be varied or there may be more, less or no gripping lips on either channel inside wall.

The sealing section 50 is preferably made of soft resilient material such as rubber or plastics. It may be produced separately and then attached to the gripping portion 4 as by means of adhesive. Alternatively it may be extruded simultaneously with the material forming the gripping portion 4. In this example, the sealing section 50 is formed with a hollow tubular bore 52 which extends along the complete length of the strip.

As illustrated in Figure 5, the strip 1 is in use positioned around the door opening of the vehicle. The strip is mounted on a metal flange 42 which runs around the periphery of the door opening and which lies within the plane of the opening and extends towards the centre of the opening. The strip 1 is again placed over the flange 42 and the gripping lips 12 grippingly engage the flange 42.

The trim retaining clips 8 are attached to the opposite side of the gripping portion 4 from the sealing portion 6.

The vehicle trim 44 can again be lockingly fixed to the retaining, sealing and finishing strip 1 in the same manner as explained above in connection with Figures 1 to 3, and hence held in position on the vehicle body surrounding the door opening.

The strip of Figures 4 and 5 can be modified by removing the sealing portion 6. The strip then acts as a finisher for the flange 42 but also supports the clips 8 which in turn support the trim 44 in the manner explained.

It will be appreciated that there are many other configurations of sealing and finishing strip to which the retaining clips 8 can be attached, in order to hold interior trim panels 44 in place.

CLAIMS

1. A retaining, sealing or finishing strip, comprising a gripping portion for grippingly engaging at least part of the periphery of the frame of an opening, one outside face of the gripping portion being provided with at least one clip for positioning and mounting an edge of a sheet of material to be secured with reference to the opening.
2. A strip according to claim 1, in which the strip is provided with sealing means mounted on another outside face of the gripping portion for forming a seal between the frame and a closure member.
3. A strip according to claim 2, in which the closure member is a window.
4. A strip according to claim 2, in which the closure member is a door.
5. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the gripping portion is channel shaped.
6. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the sealing means is a longitudinally extending deformable lip.

7. A strip according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in which the sealing means is tubular.

8. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the strip is provided with a plurality of the clips spaced at intervals along the strip.

9. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the or each clip is generally channel-shaped.

10. A strip according to claim 9, in which the mouth of the channel of the or each clip is provided with an inwardly extending angular portion.

11. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the sheet of material to be mounted is part of a vehicle trim.

12. A strip according to claim 11, in which the vehicle trim is provided with a curved-over upper edge.

13. A sealing and retaining strip for the frame of a window opening in the door of a motor vehicle, comprising a longitudinally extending channel-shaped gripping portion, the face of the external channel wall of the strip being provided with a flexible seal for sealing

against a window glass in the frame, and an opposite face of the external channel wall of the strip being provided with a series of spaced-apart clips for engagingly mounting a trim panel on the door.

14. A strip according to any preceding claim, in which the gripping portion incorporates a metal carrier.

15. A strip according to claims 5 or 13, in which the gripping portion incorporates a channel-shaped metal carrier.

16. A strip substantially as described with reference to Figures 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawing.

17. A strip substantially as described with reference to Figures 4 and 5 of the accompanying drawing.

12.

Patents Act 1977
Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17
(The Search report)

Application number
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Relevant Technical Fields

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- (ii) Int Cl (Ed.6) B60R 13/06; B60J 10/00, 10/02, 10/04, 10/06,
10/08, 10/10, 10/12; E06B 7/23

Search Examiner
MR J FULCHER

Date of completion of Search
10 AUGUST 1995

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1-17

(ii) ONLINE: WPI

Categories of documents

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| <p>X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.</p> <p>Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.</p> <p>A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.</p> | <p>P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.</p> <p>&: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.</p> |
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Category	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X	GB 2272932 A	(FORD)	1, 5, 9, 10
X	GB 2261010 A	(SILENT CHANNEL)	1-7, 9, 10 14, 15
X	EP 0254635 A1	(PEUGEOT & CITROEN)	1, 5, 9-12
X	EP 0090947 A2	(ADAM OPEL)	1-5, 7, 9 10, 11, 14 15
X	US 5040333 A	(MESMEL)	1, 5, 9, 11 12, 14
X	US 4322105 A	(ONDA)	1, 5, 9
X	US 4530192 A	(GINSTER)	1, 5, 9, 14
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